

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 09/855,020
Docket No. Q64489

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

New claims 15 and 16 have been added. These claims do not include new matter and are similar to independent claims 1 and 7, but do not recite that the player identifier identifies the player using image recognition techniques.

Claims 1, 7, 15, and 16 are independent claims.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over previously cited Walker (US 6,110,041) in view of previously cited Walker et al. (US 5,779,549).

As an initial matter, Applicants have made clarifying amendments to independent claims 1 and 7 in order to place the claims in a more easily understood form without changing the claims' scope.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 7, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the combination of Walker '041 and Walker '549 does not teach or suggest all of the claim's recitations. For example, the combination of Walker '041 and Walker '549 does not teach or suggest the claimed game machine or network system in which the data storage is operable to store a plurality of sets of personal information for each of said plurality of players, each set of personal information including parameters of play of a game.

The claimed as claimed in claims 1 and 7 includes a database that can store more than one set of personal information, including parameters of play for a game, for each of the game

players. The game environment arranger selectively reads out one of the set of personal information, and automatically sets up a game environment based on the personal information.

It is the Examiner's position that Walker '041 teaches all of the claimed features except for the personal information item being "a set of personal information for one of the plurality of players." Therefore, the Examiner looks to the system of Walker '549 in an attempt to make up for this deficiency.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that a database, which has *multiple sets* of personal information, including parameters of play, that are stored for each player identified by image recognition techniques, is patentably distinct with respect to the *single set* of information for each player stored in the system of Walker '041.

In addition, the Examiner appears to be misapplying and/or misconstruing the teachings of Walker '549. For example, the Examiner appears to assert that if the Walker '041 were modified to include the "team account" taught by Walker '549, that the combination would meet all of the claim recitations. However, there is no suggestion that the "team account" of Walker would include another set of personal information *including parameters of play of a game*. Instead, Walker '549 merely discloses that the "team account" lists the players that are members of the team. Walker '549 at 10:2-7. There is no suggestion that the team account would include parameters of play for the game or that these parameters would allow a game arranger to set up the game environment.

In addition, the Examiner appears to assert that if the system of Walker '041 were modified to include sets of information for each of *multiple games*, that the combination would

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meet all of the claim recitations. However, the claims require that each set of personal information includes parameters of play of the game. As such, the required set of information pertains to a game, the parameters of which allow a game arranger to set up that game's environment. As such, a system that merely stores parameters of play for *multiple* games, but does not store multiple sets of personal information for a single game, cannot correspond to the claimed game machine or network system.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of independent claims 1 and 7 for the reasons discussed above. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 2, 3-6, 8, 9, and 11-14 at least because of their dependency from claim 1 or claim 7.

New Claims

In addition, Applicant have added new independent claims 15 and 16. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 15 and 16 are allowable over the applied references at least because the combination of Walker '041 and Walker '549 does not teach or suggest the claimed game machine or network system in which the data storage is operable to store a plurality of sets of personal information for each of said plurality of players, each set of personal information including parameters of play of a game, as is discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 7.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

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Request for Interview

Applicant's representative respectfully requests an Interview with the Examiner. the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

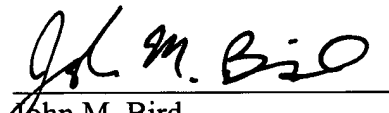
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


John M. Bird
Registration No. 46,027

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